Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 00800 280137Z

70

ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 COME-00 RSC-01

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R 272340Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5891

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: MEXICAN IMPORT DUTIES AFFECTING LIVESTOCK

REF: A) USDA TOFAS 14, 1-15-75; B) STATE 01735

1. AGRICULTURAL OFFICER IN CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL CATTLEMEN ASSOCIATION (CNG) JAN. 27, 1975 LEARNED THAT IN A MEETING HELD JANUARY 24, UNDER SECRETARY FOR LIVESTOCK, DR. RETA PETTERSSON, AND OTHER GOM OFFICIALS AGREED TO REQUEST THAT THE NEW DUTIES AFFECTING LIVESTOCK BE RESCINDED. AGAIN THEY REPORT IT WILL BE DONE THIS WEEK, THE WEEK OF JAN. 27, 1975. CURRENT IMPORT DUTIES WITH COMPARISONS FOLLOW:

EFFECTIVE IMPORT EFFECTIVE IMPORT
DUTY AS OF DUTY AS OF
JANUARY 1, 1975 DECEMBER 30, 1974
(DOLS US) (DOLS US)

REGISTERED AND CERTIFIED HIGH

GRADE DAIRY CATTLE 240.00 EXEMPT

REGISTERED AND CERTIFIED HIGH

GRADE BEEF CATTLE 240.00 EXEMPT GRADE BEEF CATTLE 25.00 20.00

REGISTERED HOGS AND CERTIFIED

 $\begin{array}{lll} \mbox{HIGH GRADE} & 1.60 & \mbox{EXEMPT} \\ \mbox{GRADE HOGS} & 4.00 & 2.00 \end{array}$

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REGISTERED SHEEP .80 EXEMPT

REGISTERED GOATS .80 EXEMPT

2. BEGIN CLASSIFIED

COMMENTS: GOM OFFICIALS HAVE OFFERED NO JUSTIFICATION FOR THE "TRADE STOPPING" INCREASE IN DUTIES ON REGISTERED LIVE-STOCK OTHER THAN TO SAY IT WAS DONE WITHOUT CONSULTING THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY. HOWEVER, THE REASONS FOR THE ACTION ARE NOT WITHOUT THEORIES, TWO OF WHICH ARE: (1) THE SECRETARY OF FINANCE WANTED TO DIRECT THE IMPORT OF REGISTERED LIVESTOCK THROUGH SPECIFIED INSTITUTIONS AND PARTIES WHICH COULD BE DONE BY DISCRETAIONARY WAIVING OF THE NEW DUTY; (2) POWERFUL INDIVIDUALS WERE IN A POSITION TO PROFIT BY EFFECTIVELY STOPPING TRADE IN REGISTERED LIVESTOCK FOR A TIME. THE ACTION DID PRECIPITATE PERHAPS A LARGER MORE UNITED REACTION ON THE PART OF CNG THAN WAS ANTICIPATED BY THE FINANCE DEPT. AGRICULTURAL OFFICERS FEEL GOM WILL CORRECT THIS ACTION ON THEIR OWN AND AT THIS TIME RETALIATORY ACTION MIGHT CEMENT ADVERSE POSITIONS WITHIN GOM. END CLASSIFIED.

3. RESPONSE TO PARA 2 REFTEL (B) FOLLOWS SEPARATELY. JOVA

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Message Attributes

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